

**EPA Readout from POPRC-16 Meeting  
January 11-16, 2021 - Online**

The United States participated as a government observer in the sixteenth meeting of the Stockholm Convention's Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee (POPRC). The U.S. delegation included representatives from OCSPP, OGC, and the State Department. The meeting, which took place online January 11-16, 2021, had a very full agenda. The POPRC reviewed a new proposal to list UV-328 and draft risk profiles for methoxychlor and Dechlorane Plus. The Committee also reviewed information related to already listed substances, including brominated diphenyl ethers (BDEs), short-chain chlorinated paraffins (SCCPs), and perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), its salts, and PFOA-related compounds.

## **Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)**

Based on the information presented in the draft risk profile for the pesticide methoxychlor, the Committee agreed that methoxychlor is likely, as a result of its long-range environmental transport, to lead to significant adverse human health and environmental effects such that global action is warranted. The United States expressed its support for this finding, based on the risk profile. The Committee also decided to initiate preparations of the draft risk management evaluation according to Annex F (Information on socio-economic considerations).

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Following extensive discussion, the POPRC was unable to reach consensus regarding whether the draft risk profile included sufficient evidence to allow for the conclusion required by Annex E of the Convention that the substance is likely, as a result of its long-range environmental transport, to lead to significant adverse human health and/or environmental effects such that global action is warranted. The Committee agreed to defer its decision on this issue to its next meeting and use the intersessional period to gather further data.

The POPRC also finalized recommendations to the Conference of the Parties related to the review of specific exemptions for decaBDE and SCCPs. The Committee incorporated a reference in the recommendations, suggested by the United States, to Article 4 of the Convention, which includes the requirement that countries registering for a specific exemption must do so upon becoming a Party to the listing for a specific chemical.

Another decision taken by the POPRC was related to the review of an indicative list of PFOA-related compounds, the development of which was called for by the Conference of the Parties at its ninth meeting

at the time the listing decision was taken for PFOA, its salts, and PFOA-related compounds. The POPRC decided to continue the review of the indicative list during the intersessional period. Others agreed with

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One additional technical work item that the POPRC discussed was a report prepared by the Secretariat on progress made by Parties towards eliminating brominated diphenyl ethers contained in articles and their continued need for the specific exemptions for those chemicals.

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